Group Medhodology. On the basis of this methodology, incidence of proverty was calculated for the years 1973-74, 1977-78, 1983-84, 1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-2000, when the data from the results of large scale sample suvery by National Sample Survey Organization on Household Consumer Expenditure were available. It is observed from the estimates made by the Planning Commission that the incidence of poverty has declined from 56.4 percent in 1973-74 to 27.1 percent in 1999-2000. The poverty rate defined as the percentage of the poor has declined at a rate of 1.13% points per year between 1973-74 and 1999-2000 and the annual average rate at which the total number of poor people has declined is 0.81 per cent during this period.

The next estimate of poverty by the Planning Commission will be based on the results of 61st round of NSS conducted during 2004-05, which is yet to be published. Therefore, the question of the number of poor during 2004 at about 25 crore, does not arise.

There is no proposal with the Planning Commission to evolve a new definition of poverty line including parameters like drinking water, shelter, etc.

Insofar as the Ministry of Urban Employnment & Poverty Alleviation is concerned, for identification of genuine beneficiaries under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), both economic and non-economic parameters are considered. Based on the State specific urban poverty lines, as estimated by the Planning Commission, the below poverty line (BPL) survery is made by the States/Union Territories. The non-economic parameters, like shelter, water, sanitation, etc., are then applied to this urban below poverty line (BPL) population for identification of genuine beneficiaries under the Scheme.

Relaxing of norms under Delhi Master Plan

*385. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether in view of suggestions received on Delhi Master Plan 2021 and ground reality, Government have re-looked at Floor Area Ratio, dwelling units and height norms for plotted residential housing;

if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

the progress made/decision taken on suggestions to increase number of dwelling units to four in plots of sizes 100-250 sq. metres keeping in view the existing reality of lakhs of such units all over Delhi; and

the status of report of Task Force on rehabilitation colonies which was to look into these issues?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Government had issued revised norms for floor area ratio, number of dwelling units, height, etc. in respect of plotted residential development *vide* notification dated 23.7.1988. The draft Master Plan for Delhi 2021, proposes further liberalization in respect of number of dwelling units to be permitted in plotted residential development. The draft Master Plan for Delhi 2021 was published in the newspapers on 8.4.2005 inviting suggestions/objections from the public. About 7,000 responses have been received, which have been referred to the Board of Enquiry and Hearing set up by the Delhi Development Authority, under the statutory provisions for finalization of the Master Plan. Suggestions regarding the norms for plotted residential development and increased FAR and height will be considered in the finalization of MPD-2021.

(d) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that the Task Force regarding Rehabilitation Colonies has prepared its draft Report, which was considered in the meeting held on 10th October, 2005. Comments received from the concerned departments have now been taken up for consideration before finalization of the Report.

Interest rate on Seamens Provident Fund

*386. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

whether the Seamens Provident Fund attracts less interest than the Employees Provident Fund;

if so, the details thereof;

whether Government are considering the issue of making the rate of interest uniform;